

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

12860 CROSSROADS PARKWAY SOUTH • CITY OF INDUSTRY, CALIFORNIA 91746
Tel (562) 908-8400 • Fax (562) 908-0459



PHILIP L. BROWNING
Director

SHERYL L. SPILLER
Chief Deputy



Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

June 17, 2008

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Philip L. Browning, Director

**SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF MEDI-CAL CITIZENSHIP AND IDENTITY
VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS RESULTING FROM THE FEDERAL
DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005**

This is to advise you of the new Medi-Cal citizenship/identity requirement implementation plans developed by DPSS for Los Angeles County. On June 4, 2007, the State released All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) 07-12 for implementation of the Federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) requirement for those declaring U.S. citizenship to provide evidence of U.S. Citizenship/U.S. National Status and identity as a condition of full-scope Medi-Cal eligibility.

BACKGROUND

As a result of the DRA, citizens who are applying for or renewing their Medi-Cal eligibility must provide original or certified copies of documentary evidence of citizenship and identity. Legal Permanent Residents and persons with non-qualifying immigration status are not impacted by the new requirement. Verification of citizenship and identity is a one-time-only requirement. Once received, the information is posted to the State's Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) for future reference. Several groups have been exempted by the State from the requirement. Additionally, individuals who have met citizenship and identity requirements for CalWORKs have also met the requirement for Medi-Cal.

LA County receives new applications for approximately 71,000 persons per month for the Medi-Cal Only program. In addition, approximately 84,000 Medi-Cal beneficiaries have their annual redeterminations completed monthly. Citizen beneficiaries will be asked to provide documentation in the first year of implementation at their annual redetermination. Thereafter, only new applicants will be affected.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

DPSS IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

In preparation for implementation of this major new requirement, the Department has worked collaboratively with the Department of Health Services and community partners to develop and implement the following implementation strategies:

- Written instructions on policy and procedures were released to staff in April 2008.
- Extensive training was completed in April and May 2008 for DPSS and DHS staff responsible for determining Medi-Cal eligibility.
- Staff has been trained to inform applicants who are pregnant or have other emergency medical needs that they may choose to receive restricted Medi-Cal benefits, so their emergency or pregnancy medical services can be claimed to Medi-Cal for payment, pending DPSS' receipt of the citizenship/identity documents required for full-scope Medi-Cal eligibility.
- DPSS Customer Service Center, Health and Nutrition Hotline, and VIP Helpline staff are being trained this month.
- Upon implementation, teams of Eligibility Workers will be stationed in selected district lobbies to accommodate applicants and beneficiaries who wish to present their documents in person.
- Individuals will be able to present documents at a district office convenient to their residence or work location regardless of where their case is maintained.
- An imaging system has been developed to permanently record the documentation submitted and to expedite lobby traffic.
- Receipts will be given to every person who appears in person to provide proof of citizenship/identity.
- Home calls will be made for aged or disabled persons who have no one available to bring in their documents to a DPSS office for them. Persons unable to come to a district office can contact their worker or the DPSS Customer Service Center to make arrangements for a home visit. District offices have been allocated portable scanners to complete the home call certification process.

In developing the Department's implementation plan, the paramount objective has been to minimize any negative effect this change may have on persons in need of health care and on health care providers who depend on Medi-Cal reimbursement. Monitoring the impact of this change will take place on an ongoing basis, with the goal of identifying any problems and potential enhancements to the Department's implementation strategies.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

PLB:im

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors